

**Our All in All**  
**Part II**  
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

This past week the Lord has shown us the magnitude of His presence and His power He has placed in us, His Church.

Whatever you may think or believe or imagine as to what a real Church is, there are some things we can all agree on.

Yes, there is one big Church, but that one big Church exists in the future after we all rise to meet the Lord in the air.

Right now, the Church is a local Body, one of which every Believer is called and commanded to become a worshipping, serving part.

These letters we read in the New Testament are to local Churches telling them and informing them what their job is and what their responsibilities are; and the best part of all, about their opportunities to be used for God's glory!

The letter from which we read today is written to the local Church which existed in the city of

Ephesus on the coast of what is now modern day Turkey.

### **Ephesians 1:15-23**

- 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,
- 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,
- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,
- 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
- 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,
- 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

About 30 years later, Jesus Himself wrote another letter to this same Church:

## Revelation 2:1-5

- 1 Unto the angel [messenger/pastor] of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- 2 I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
- 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.
- 4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

In another 30 years, will the light still be shining here at Lighthouse Baptist Church? Will we still be about all winning souls, which is our First Love? Will we still be preaching the real Word of God; faithfully and in truth?

In 30 years I and many of you will likely be in heaven. What kind of a Church, if she exists at all, will Lighthouse be?

There comes a time in the life of a Believer that you realize the Lord expects you to step up to the plate and do your part for His Kingdom.

Think about this for a moment...if Jesus saved you just to take you to heaven, that's probably where you would be right now.

Brothers and sisters, we have work to do! We are a family, and in our family we have a family business...and from our family business there comes great blessing.

Today, I want us to see the whole picture of where each of us fits into this wonderful family of ours; may the Lord allow us to see and realize the incredible value and privilege and opportunity each of us has before us right now!

First we are going to look at:

## **I. The Family bond.**

*A. When you got saved, you became family!*

### **1. Ephesians 1:10-14**

10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

- 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
- 13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

2. When you heard and understood the gospel; how that Christ died for your sins, was buried and spent three days and three nights in the grave and rose again in victory over death and sin and hell and the grave...after which you believed; which means you trusted Him to save you...upon that act of faith you were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

3. When that event took place, **the Bible says you were born again**; your spirit which was dead in sins was made alive; recreated in righteousness and true holiness, never to die or be condemned again.

4. To those here this morning that have not yet experienced being born again; do you really believe that Jesus is God in flesh and that He died for your sins? If you really do, then all you lack to be saved is to simply place your trust in Him to save you.

4. This new spiritual birth will put you into a new family; the family of God!

**Ephesians 3:14-15**

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

*B. All believers have a connection; a bond, if you will, with every other true believer everywhere, worldwide.*

1. What is that connection?
2. It's family! We are spiritual brothers and sisters because our spirits have been born again into the same family!
3. Every saved person is family and every saved person has an inheritance because we are family.

**Ephesians 1:11** ...In whom also we have obtained an inheritance....

4. That inheritance is an eternal home in heaven which is ours strictly and only because it is a gift from our Father.
5. Truly there is nothing more important for you than becoming a part of God's family; because that is what determines you're going to heaven.
6. Family, at least for the individual, may indeed be most important; however, there are other things that are extremely important too.

For example:

**II. The Family Business.** I understand that on a physical level when men and women grow up and get married they are to “leave father and mother;” family business usually doesn’t work very well. However:

*A. If all believers are the Family of God...and they are; then the Church is definitely the Lord’s Family business!*

1. Our family has a firstborn Son.

2. **Romans 8:29**

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, that he might be **the firstborn** among many brethren.

3. **Hebrews 12:23** To the general assembly and **church of the firstborn**, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

*B. The firstborn Son, Jesus Himself, who is our big brother, heads up the family business.*

4. **Colossians 1:12-19**

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

- 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:
- 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
- 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
- 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- 18 And he **is the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, **the firstborn** from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.
- 19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fullness dwell;

5. Again, it is only in a real Church that Jesus is the Head.

6. It is only in a real Church that Jesus is preeminent.

7. It is only in a real Church that the fullness of Him can be experienced.

8. It is only in a real Church that Jesus receives all the glory!

9. As a believer, being a part of a real Church is not only our duty and our privilege, it is our birthright!



10. It is our birthright because we are, first, a part of the family.

*C. Our role in the family business, our Church, is our true vocation.*

#### 1. **Ephesians 4:1**

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

1. I know how it gets out there trying to make a living; trying to make ends meet.

2. Satan would have you working every Sunday and not even coming to Church if he can get you to think you have to work or you need to work instead.

3. God's plan for every born again member of His family is that He might build them into one of His Churches as a literal part of that Body.

#### 4. **Ephesians 2:19-22**

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

## 5. Ephesians 4:14-16

- 14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:
- 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

6. For those members who take seriously their role of serving God in their Church as their true vocation; they get to experience something incredible.

That something incredible is:

### III. The Family Blessing.

We get to experience:

A. *The blessing of power.*

1. We, whose true vocation is serving the Lord, His way in His Church; get to experience the exceeding greatness of His power.

## 2. Ephesians 1:17-19

- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19 **And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,** according to the working of his mighty power,

2. How great is this power the Lord has placed in His Church?

### 3. **Ephesians 3:16-21**

- 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;  
That's the power of strength!
- 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
That's the power of love!
- 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
That's the power of understanding!
- 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.  
That's the power of knowledge!

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, That's the power to accomplish!

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

And most importantly of all; the power to bring Him glory!

We get to experience:

*B. The blessing of prayer.*

1. We who are born again are blessed with access to God in prayer.

2. **John 14:13** And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

3. When we ask for that which brings God glory; especially in the Church like God commands us; we have a guaranteed response from God!

4. We here at Lighthouse get to see God answering our prayers every day.

We get to experience:

*C. The blessing of principles.*

1. Learning to practice the principles of God's Word will solve virtually every problem we have.

2. For example, finances are the most prayed about need among Christians.
3. In our Home Team discussion on Biblical Finances, the 8 or 9 people who were there that day listed 24 Bible principles that we could think of that directly affect our finances; there are in fact many more.
4. Financial problems don't get solved by prayer; they get solved by applying and practicing God's principles.
5. Principles like: get up early, work hard, don't be lazy, don't procrastinate, establish right priorities, be content, avoid greed, count the cost, multiple sources of income, avoiding waste, tithing and giving...and dozens more.

We also get to experience:

*D. The blessing of promises.*

1. When we apply and practice God's principles; most of them come with specific promises from God; for example:
2. God's Word commands that with what God blesses you, you are to honor Him by bringing His tithe and an offering to His house.
3. **Malachi 3:8** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

4. I feel sad for those who have bought the lie that tithing is Old Testament and God doesn't expect us to do that anymore.

**5. Tithing is not a burdensome command; it is the blessing of a promise!**

### 3. **Malachi 3:10-11**

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,

God provides for His house through the tithing of His people; just like tithing bought the oil for the lamps of the temple, tithing pays the electric bill here today.

4. "Mine house", God says; today, that house of God is your Church.

**1Timothy 3:15** ...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

5. God goes on to say: *and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

6. Many of us have practiced this principle for many years; do you think we have found God faithful to keep His promise?

7. Yes, we have! “**exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think!**” And He does it in ways that show us that it could only be God!

### **In Conclusion:**

**No wonder the Bible says our Church is the fullness of Jesus that filleth all in all!**

**In Hebrews 12:23 which we read earlier, there is a group referred to in heaven called “the church of the firstborn.” I and every born again member of Lighthouse Baptist Church are going to be a part of that group.**

**What we get to experience here is great and the rewards are amazing and wonderful; yet it is nothing to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.**

**As I shared last week, Jesus has caused us to sit together here in heavenly places...**

### **Ephesians 2:4-7**

- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by (grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

**Why?**

7 **That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches** of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

### **Ephesians 1:18**

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what **the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

**The glory we bring to Jesus in His Church is going to become riches in the ages to come.**

**They will become riches that do not fade away.**

**1Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

**They are riches that we will be able to lay at Jesus' feet to give Him glory in that day!**

**None of this is going to matter if you are not part of the family. Are you part of God's family this morning? Won't you come and do something about that this morning? We are here to help.**